

In 1902 George Williams of near Lobelia,Pocahontas County,W,Va bought a circular saw mill,his first operation was a set on Caesar Mountain for S.J Payne of Hillsboro who had bought a tract of timber from Sam & Sabina Wamsley for \$175.00 and they received in payment one horse at \$125. and a buggy at \$50.00 this contract was written August 4,1902.

325.000 was cut at this set and upon completion moved to Seebert.

His next set was also for S.J Payne and the mill was set at what was known at that time as Carter Siding which is just below Seebert,W,Va the timber having been bought from many different people of Seebert and the surrounding terretory.This operation started in April 1903 and run to May 1904.

Camps were built to take care of the men and barns were built to stable the horses,as Payne had one and two teams there most of the time besides the horses of Ellis McCarty of Hillsboro and K.O Wade of the Wade corner which is a section at the top of the Seebert hill.

The lumber was laded in box cars of the C & O Railroad and shipped to many different sections,400,000 was sawed at this set and Williams was sawyer on all of his operations.

From Seebert the mill was moved to Red Lick Mountain to saw for Smith and Whiting they having bought this tract of timber from W.H Shearer who lived on the head of Dry Creek above Onoto. In the Company were Captain A.E Smith and Jim Whiting.

There was 378 acrs in this bandary and bounded as follows starting at the head of Dry Creek thence to the Silas Barlow line then to the line of I.M Armagast and with the lines of S.B Elkins and H.G Davis and then

...almost as fast.

...I couldn't find anything much written

In 1902 George Williams of near Lobelia,Pocahontas County,W,Va bou-

ght a circular saw mill,his first operation was a set on Caesar Mountain for S.J Payne of Hillsboro who had bought a tract of timber from Sam & Sabina Wamsley for \$175.00 and they received in payment one horse at \$125. and a buggy at \$50.00 this contract was written August 4,1902.

325.000 was cut at this set and upon completion moved to Seebert.

His next set was also for S.J Payne and the mill was set at what was known at that time as Carter Siding which is just below Seebert,W,Va the timber having been bought from many different people of Seebert and the surrounding terretory.This operation started in April 1903 and run to May 1904.

Camps were built to take care of the men and barns were built to stable the horses,as Payne had one and two teams there most of the time besides the horses of Ellis McCarty of Hillsboro and K.O Wade of the Wade corner which is a section at the top of the Seebert hill.

The lumber was laded in box cars of the C & O Railroad and shipped to many different sections,400,000 was sawed at this set and Williams was sawyer on all of his operations.

From Seebert the mill was moved to Red Lick Mountain to saw for Smith and Whiting they having bought this tract of timber from W.H Shearer who lived on the head of Dry Creek above Onoto. In the Company were Captain A.E Smith and Jim Whiting.

There was 378 acrs in this bandary and bounded as follows starting at the head of Dry Creek thence to the Silas Barlow line then to the line of I.M Armagast and with the lines of S.B Elkins and H.G Davis and then

...almost as fast.

...I couldn't find anything much written

#2 George Williams Operations Concluded.---

This timber was deeded to Smith And Whiting March 21, 1906, they paid \$1700.00 for the boundary from which they sawed 400,000 feet of boards there was two sets .Upon completion of this operation Williams moved his mill back to the Little Levels District and over Caesar Mountain to his next set.

The mill was set just under the top of Caesar Mountain on the Peck place and ready for operation, Peck had a team and did part of the skidding but he hired Harry and Frank Thompson of Millpoint to do part of the skidding.

This operation took place in 1906 & 07 and they sawed 416.000.

This was operated in 1906 and 75,000 was saved at this set.

#7-- In 1906 & 07 Williams sawed for W.W Kinnison on Bruffeys Creek  
part of this timber was logged from Kinnison's own farm the rest he bought from near by farmers.

covered almost as fast.

28. I couldn't find anything much written on this.





Feb. 23, 1940

Nelle V. McLaughlin

Juanita S. Willey  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County  
May 2, 1940

Ch. 4 Section 5a - 1

During the Industrial Period (1860-1910) the people of Pocahontas County repaired and reestablished their saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, and so forth, that they had established before the Civil War, then of course there were many new ones built and many of the old ones were under new management. These, however, were all small individual businesses just as they had been before the war. No great commercial industries were begun until 1876 when the St. Lawrence Boom and Lumber Company came into the county and began cutting the white pine, cherry and walnut and rafting it down the Greenbrier River to Ronceverte. Since Pocahontas was so abundant in these timbers, this became a very important industry. Practically all of the lumber taken from this county during the next twenty-five years was taken out in this manner.

While it became known that Pocahontas had small deposits of iron, and some marble nothing was done to develop an industry and no mineral rights were taken.

Since agriculture and grazing were the chief occupation and there was no coal, nor enough other minerals to attract corporations there was no struggle between the land owners and corporations. The land was still in the hands of the original owners or their families and was valued only for its timber, grazing and for the timber. Even yet many farmers continued to clear their fields and to roll the logs into piles and burn them not realizing that they were destroying what would have soon been worth a fortune to them.

As soon as the railroads were completed in 1901, the county began to improve for now, that transportation was available, lumber companies were anxious to open up this vast timber section. Lumber towns sprang up almost over night, but when the lumbering was done they disappeared almost as fast.

pp. I couldn't find anything

There was once a man by the name of Henry Phillips who was looking over this land in the 1790. He engaged a surveyor, William Pooge of Marlins Botton, and surveyed 41,000 acres at the headwaters of Greenbrier River. This survey took in most of that rich timber country. About the same time a Randolph County surveyor made a survey of 31,000 acres for Richard Smythe which interfered, and lapped on the 41,000 acres.

Henry Phillips having acquired this land paid little or no attention to it, not even paying the paltry taxes. With other large surveys it lay idle and useless.

The legislature of Virginia finding that such large grants hindered development, evolved the law of forfeiture. So in the 1830's and 1840's they began to cut up these lands and sell them for the benefit of the school fund. The Phillips 41,000 acres was thus disposed of to the highest bidders. It brought \$212.00 which was about the cost of surveying and selling it.

In the 1880's there was a law suit over this land because of the surveys of Phillips and Smythe. But it seems that the Smythe surveys called for a cypress and no cypress could be found in these high mountains. The work probably should have been cippus meaning a set stone. At any rate, Pocahontas county wrested from Randolph County this large territory.

This threw to Pocahontas county a big boundary of spruce and hemlock forest country so rich in timber as to render it worthless for anything else.

On the titles based on this sale of forfeitures the land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 in one day for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing.

In 1903-1915 when the heavy growth of timber was being operated a number of towns sprang up and flourished for a while and disappeared. Among them: Wilkell, Gertude, May, Brancher, Madeline, Olive, Nida, Winterburn, Burner and Oxley. The Coal and Iron Railway. What a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. Town sprang up and drummers walked the railroad from one town to the next when the trains did not run to suit them. The above mentioned towns occupied the sixteen miles of river and railroad which lies between Durbin and where Randolph County begins at the divide.

This is now a part of the cold and barren which lies in Pocahontas. Where as it used to look stern and wild, it now looks wild and naked.

From Pocahontas Times - 1918 by Andrew Price  
The above towns were only a few of the lost towns of Pocahontas. During the lumbering days towns sprang up all along the Greenbrier River and than lost their importance or ceased to exist except in name, Sitlington, Clover Lick, Harter, Campbelltown, Stilwell. This was partly after 1910, however.



West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry Date 3/22/41

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken 3/14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21  
1941

Typist Samuel G. Smith Date Typed 3/21, 22, /41

O.B. Curry, J.R. Guthrie & court records

Source Marlinton. W. Va. Date Filed

Jay And William Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

Julian Arbuckle. Maxwellton. W. Va.

This Co. has all new men at present therefore had to contact former  
employees and information was hard to get.





Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Cass. W. Va.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. began operation in 1900 and have been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was bought from Newton J Gum and at that time was being farmed by him.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. was made up by and with the following men John G Luke of Orange, N. Y and his sons William, now at Covington. Va. Al Luke, Charlie Luke and S. F Slaymaker and William Whitmer of Pa. Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co. was E. P Shafer for a long period and the present mgr. is S. D Huff, R. S Hickman was general mgr. of the Co. store and Burke McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as they had as high as 20 clerks besides the other stores at Spruce and Slaty Fork besides small stores at some of the coal mines.

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when they were operating the best of their timber, they had 14 log engines and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time, they had 10 to 12 loaders besides the steam skidders that they used on Elk and other sections ~~XXXXXX~~ but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head. They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R R was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R R

or the G.C & E. with Robert Hivio as R R Supt. The railroad started at Cass went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Bergoo, Slatyfork and vec, with a line up Flk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremans were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr, E.C Smith was store Mgr. at Slatyfork, Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commissarys for the Co. at different places, William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat. The wood supts, were Sol McNeely, Heaston Payne ~~XXX~~ Judson Taylor and John (Jack) Crookshanks, lumber graders J.R Guthrie and Mark Wood Gum, the postmasters have been Dr. Joe Ayers, Lake Clark and James Moyers the present P.M, Merl Irvine conductor and train master, George Graham was in charge of the office R.W Fox bookkeeper and Leona Sheppard office worker, John Hannah G.C. & E .R.R. Elmer Duncan shop clerk train master and office man, Joe Graves yard foreman, S.B Nethkin run the Company firm and operated the meat market for several years but the present farm manager is George Waugh, George Anderson was shovel man for the R R and another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman, Yard foreman Hob Rose.

The first Company doctor was Dr. Julian Arbuckle he was one of Greenbrier County, leading doctors after he left Cass, the present Dr. is Dr. U.H Hannah and their veterinary was Dr. F.C Nickel.

The following were engineers on the G.C & E R.R some time or other George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Cromer, Ben Cameron, Sam Waugh, Frank Williams, Floyd Dorman, H.C Gilmore, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover Craddock-Red Stanley, C.W Odell was train dispatcher .Frank Imes was conductor on Cheat. James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the camps. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kenealey, Jean Kepner, Homer Brown, Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar Sarson. Joe Wooddell is town police. Herbert Shafer master mechanic and shop foreman, their electric welder man is Chalmers Shrader.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,000 acres <sup>in Boone Co.</sup> besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass, Back Mt, Cheat Mt, Down Cheat River, Bergoo Creek, Slatyfork, Gauley Mt, Elk River and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30 they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60 a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the band mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to their paper mill or to Luke Md to a paper mill there and on March 10. 1940 they had a big <sup>fire</sup> at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars

worth of property and material, losing 10 million pounds of finished kraft and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E Steeley plant Supt.and Walter F Linger mill chemist and dept.head were overcome with smoke and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Cass at what is called the Y, and here they made khaki dye the supt.was A.Molton.

The population of Cass at the present time is 800 but back a few years ago it had a population of 22,00 and at that time was the largest town in Pocahontas County, Cass has about 400 ~~XX~~ Company houses a school for the white population also a school for the colored, 3 churches and a large hotel that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management of Mrs.Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs.Heaster at different times they employed 4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks, besides this establishment they had private hotels and restaurants on the east side across the river, and it was on east side where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 stores a restaurant, a hotel and several privately owned houses.

The Co.had camps from Spruce to Bemis on the Western Maryland R R, most of the G.O & F R R was built by Italians and Austrians and these were known as the bohunk camps.



During their operations coal was discovered and mines were opened up on top of Gauley Mt. between Bergoo Creek and Slatyfork this mine was operated until 1940. another mine was opened up below Spruce and was called the Hopkins mine, another was the Linan mine just below the Hopkins mine, and about 1920 Big John mine and Deer Lick mines were opened up, this was about the time they were lumbering up Fishing Hawk Creek this coal was mostly used by the Co. in their trains and at the town of Cass. You find coal on many of their holdings and no doubt some day these mines will be reopened and new ones opened up.

The W.Va Pulp And Paper Company beyond a doubt had the largest operations of any Co. operating in Pocahontas Co. and today they own several thousand acres of land but have sold several thousand acres to the government for reforestation purposes, their farming operations are very extensive as they have farm lands from just outside of Cass to the Greenbank road and along Deer Creek and you find land in high state of cultivation and some of the finest barns that are found in this section of the State and in these they winter from 2 to 300 head of cattle and back a few years ago they produced over 1,000 lambs a year.

The W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Operations in Pocahontas County have meant more to the growth of the county than any other operation that has taken place here as they not only furnished employment to the people but have helped

greatly in the way of taxation besides the towns that have sprung up namely Cass,Slatyfork,and Spruce besides scattered houses at these coal mines at Hopkins mine, Linan mine, Deer Lick & Big John mines,at Spruce where they had the pulp mill you found hundreds of acres of spruce trees as this is a cold place snow getting 2 to 3 feet deep.

During their 40 years of operating at Cass it is estimated they cut I.126.400.000 and about the same amount of pulp wood.most of the hardwood went to Luke Md.and it is estimated by one of their former lumber graders that they carried I6 million feet of lumber on the yards at a time.They had a planing mill and put out finished surfaced lumber in the way of siding,flooring and other dressed lumber that was mostly used locally in the county.

The Pocahontas Supply Co.store did a business of \$ I200.000.00 a year business when they were in the best of the timber and when business was good.

The mill burned in 1924 but was rebuilt at once.

Cass today is a thriving lumber town that has meant a lot to Pocahontas County as it made a market for all the surplus farm commodities of the surrounding terretory,payed enormous taxes that helped our county schools and government and furnished employment to thousands of her citizens this was Pocahontas County's largest operation and the payroll of the W.Va.Pulp and Paper Co.was the largest of any in Pocahontas.The lumbering from about 1900 to 1928 was the greatest industry in the County but since that time the oper-

There have been smaller operations but the Government has bought thousands of acres of cut over land for reforestation purposes so in years to come it is hoped the lumber industry will be better than at the present time due to the reforesting.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Company hope to complete their operations at Cass in 2 or 3 years the present time they are just operating in order to furnish employment to the population of Cass.

Information-O.B. Curry. Marlinton. W.Va.

J.R. Guthrie. " "

Court Records. " "

Jay Buckley. Buckeye. W.Va.

William Buckley. " "

Julian Arbuckle. Maxwellton. W.Va.

All the above worked for the Co. at some time or other but Arbuckle and his father was Co. Dr. for a time at Cass.

56

7

West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Date 3/13/41

Date Research Taken 3/13/41  
& 3/12/41

Date Typed 3/13/41

Date Filed



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
Williams And Pifer Lumber Co.

In 1917 was incorporated and L. H Williams was Pres. and Gen mgr.  
A. C Pifer Vice Pres. and Dr. M. S Wilson Sec, and Treas, all of Marlinton. W.  
Va.

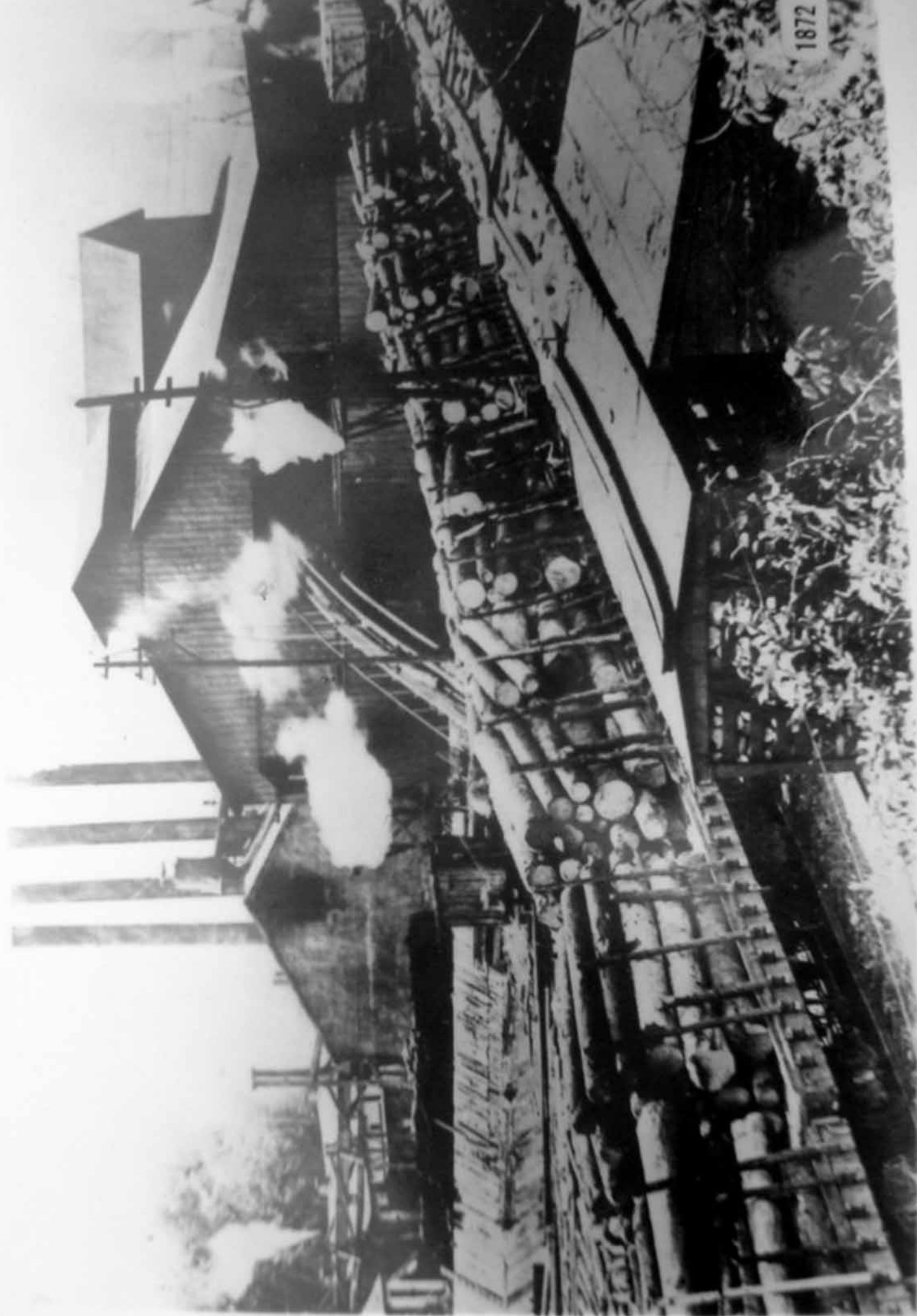
Their operations have been all over Pocahontas County and part of  
Greenbrier as they operated in 1917 on Spring Creek in Greenbrier Co. this  
was sawed by J. L Howard of Buckeye. and in 1920 they were operating on Lau-  
rel Creek. 1917 on Elk . and in 1920 on Brushy Mt. Cummins Creek. Beaver Creek  
and until 1926 they were operating in the Huntersville District but in 1929  
they bought two tracts of timber from F. P Clark totaling 810 acres and in  
1930 they bought a boundary of 60 acres of the John Gay est. on Bucks Run and  
in 1931 they bought a tract of 158 acres on the Dry Fork of Stony Creek  
from William D and Jessie Burgess of Laurel Creek. and since that time they  
have had their circular mill set in the upper part of the town of Marlinton  
and buying and trucking logs where ever they can buy any in connection with  
this mill they run a planer and sell building material already surfaced and  
ready for use.

When they were operating at capacity they used from 6 to 8 teams of  
horses to do the skidding had a log engine and 4 or 5 log trucks when they were  
operating on Laurel Creek and used from 3 to 4 trucks to haul lumber and logs.

Bert Roberts was their sawyer for quite a long time, and Alva Johnson  
is the present lumber grader and has been for several years.

Besides their lumbering operations they have a large store, in which  
they have their office, a general store a meat market with an experienced meat  
cutter in Clarence Jordan Ward Wimer store man assisted by hired help and bes-  
ides this they distribute Conoco gasoline and oil in Pocahontas and Randolph  
County. this business was all built up from their lumbering operations of the  
last 24 years.

Information. James Forney. Marlinton. W. Va .  
Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.



No. : 1876

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

(copy)

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Lumber

yard





No. : 1877

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Print located in :

Date :

Subject :

Cass  
Boiler house

source

file

Society

(Copy)

1877



No. : 2571

Source : U. S. Forest Service

Elkins

Society

source

file

Original in the possession of :

albums

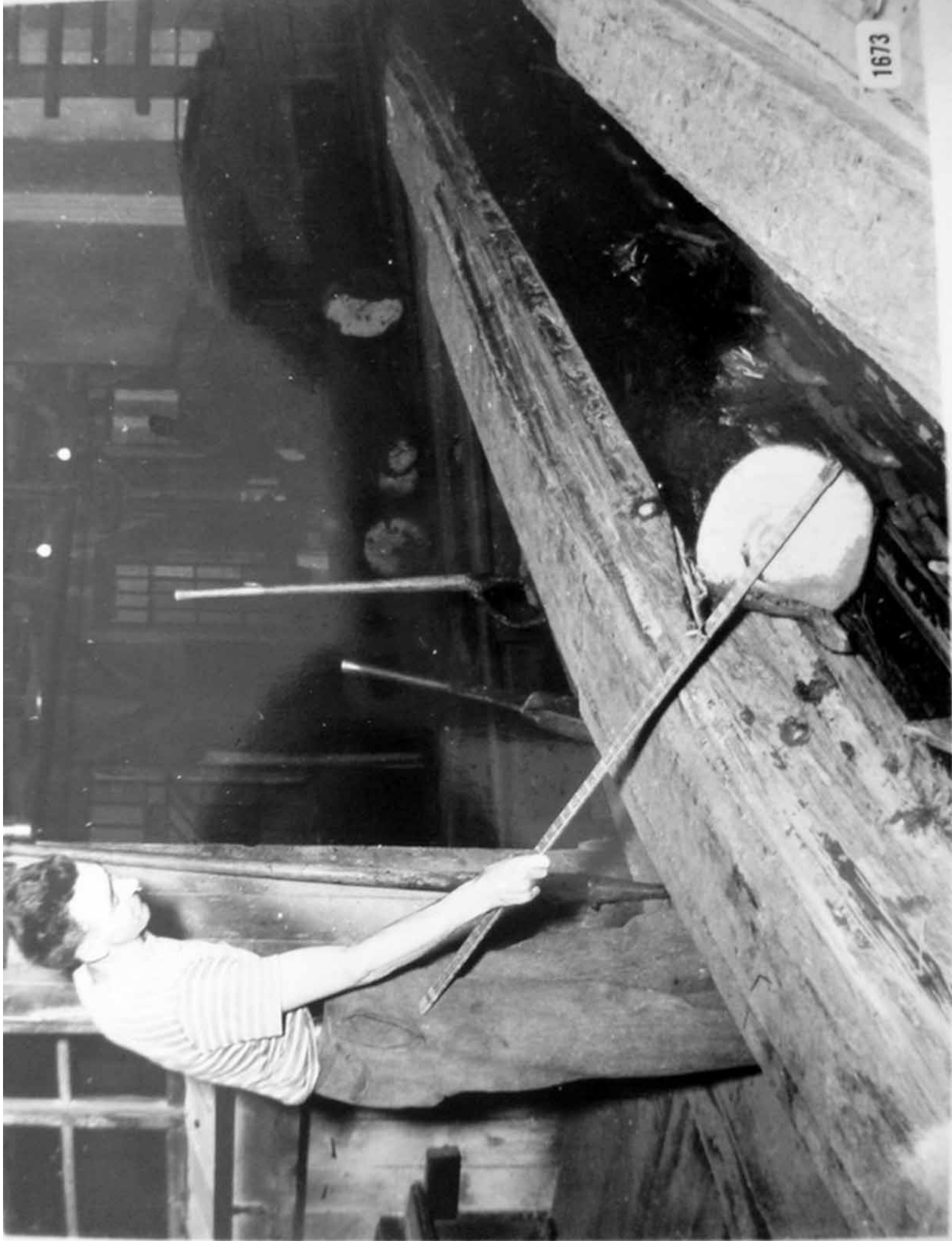
Print located in :

Date : March 29, 1949

Subject :

Mower Lumber Company log pond  
at mill

1673





Source :

No. : 1674

W. Va. U. Library

Society

Original in the possession of :

source

file

albums

Print located in :

Date : August 7, 1946

Subject :

Mower Lumber Co

Interior view of flooring mill



1674

No. : 1861

Source : Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

(copy)

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass ~~Photo~~

Lumber yard





No. : 1862 Source : Westvaco

Society (copy)

source

Original in the possession of :

~~albums~~ file

Print located in :

Date :

Subject :

Cass mill, ~~from~~ view from the river  
taken from across the river

Same as # 909



No. : 1863

Source : Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Print located in :

Date :

Subject :

Cass  
Boiler House

albums

source

file

Society

(copy)





No. : 1869

Source : Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Print located in :

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Mill pond & mill (second mill)

albums

source

file

Society

(copy)

1869



No. : 1870

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Lumber yard





No. : 1871

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

file

Print located in :

albums

Society

(Copy)

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Planning mill



1871

No. : 1872

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass  
Original mill

Society

(copy)

Lumber Dock, Cass, W. Va.





No. : 1526

Source :

Mrs Fred Bell  
Buena Vista  
Virginia

Original in the possession of :

source

Society (Postcard)

Print located in :

albums

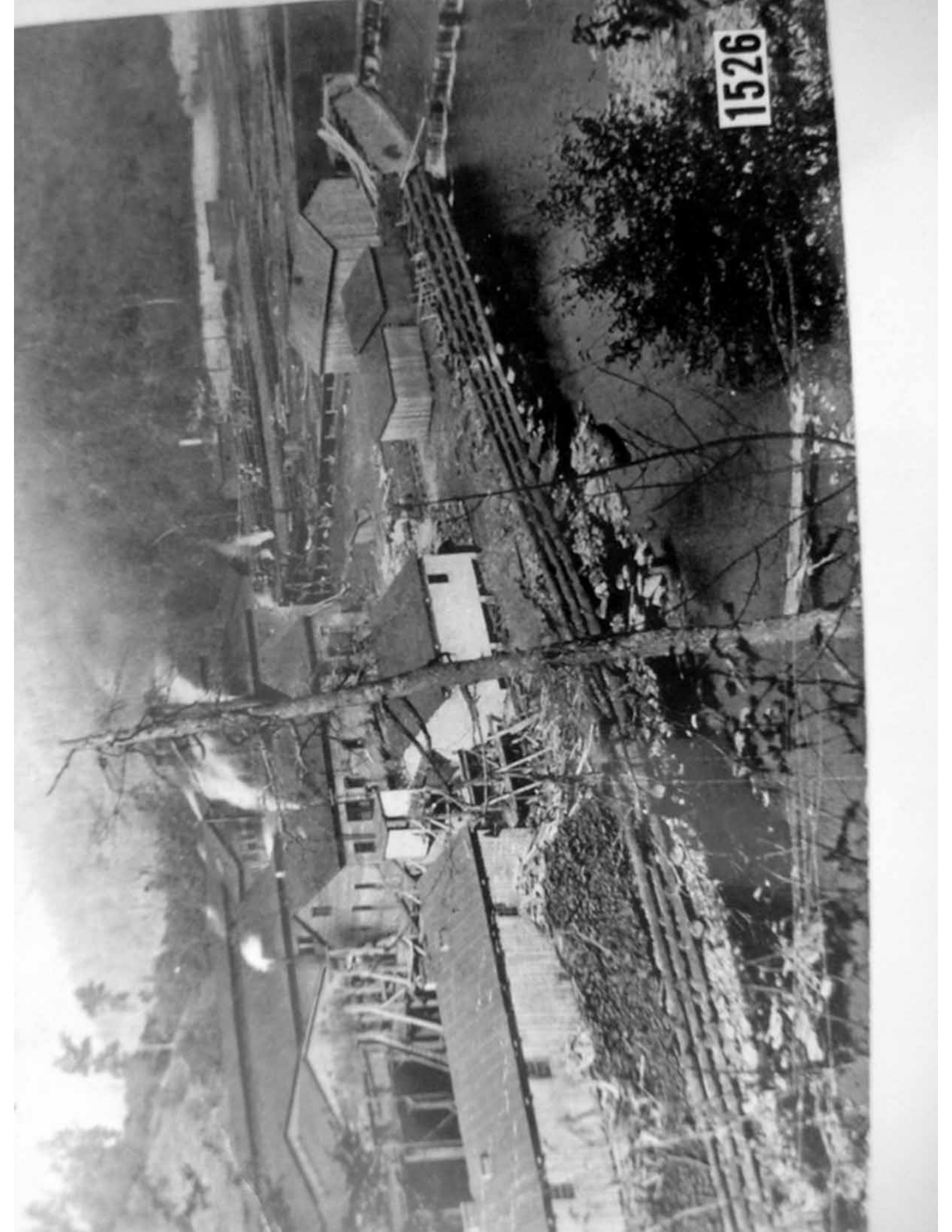
file

Date : Postmark 11/9/08

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co., Cass  
View of mill and part of dam  
across the Greenbrier River

1526



No. : 1560 Source : Mrs. Opal Small

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

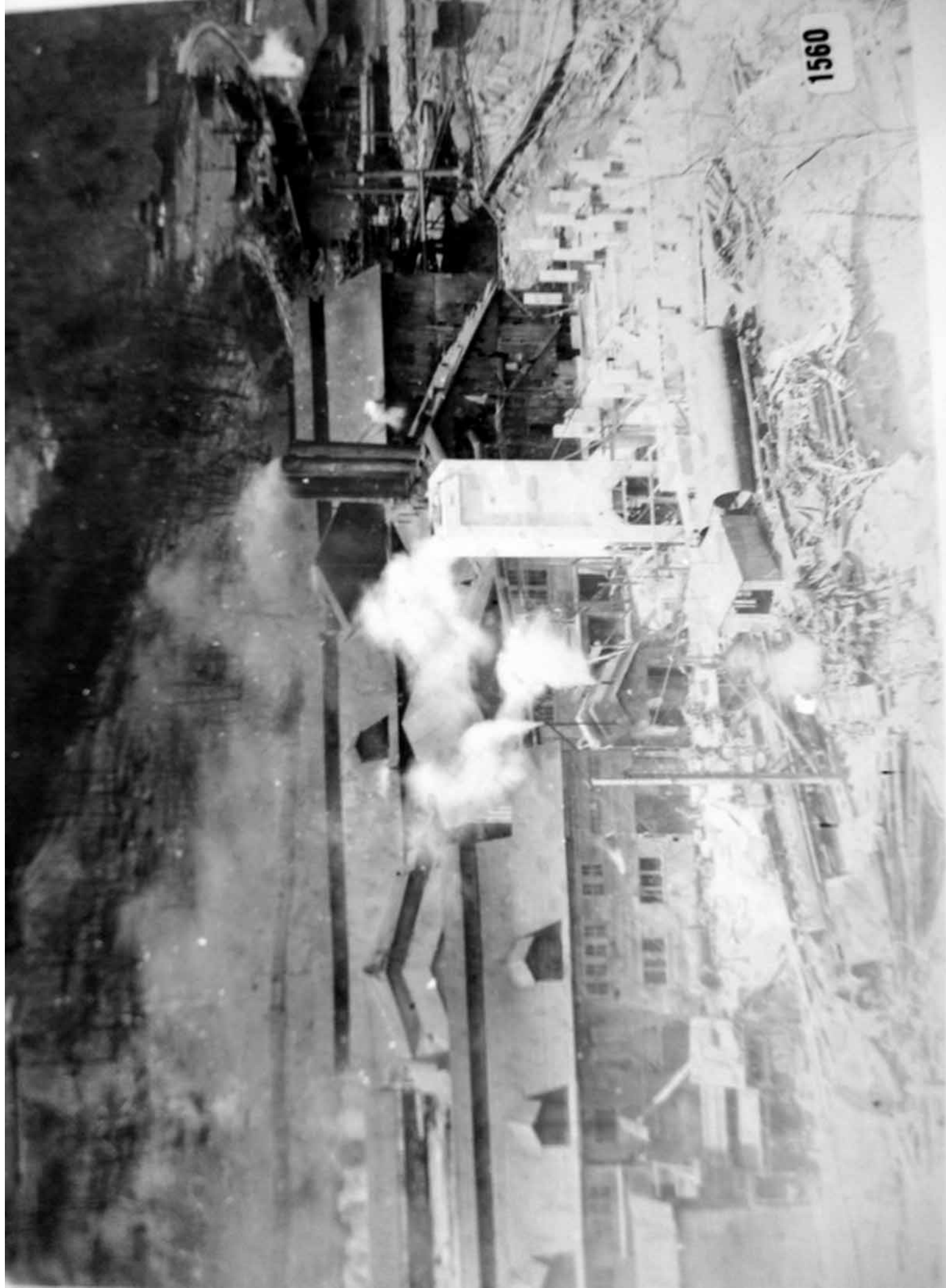
file

Date : 1921

Subject :

View of W. Va. Pulp & Paper Company  
Cass mill. Taken from east side  
river. Pictures shows present boiler  
house under construction and original  
shop building

1560





No. : 1664

Source :

W. Va. Collection

W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of :

Society

Print located in :

albums

source

file

Date : August 7, 1946

Subject :

Cass mill interior view of Carriage &  
band saw

L-R: Bill Simmons, Oliver Tyson, ?

Mr Simmons sawed the last log in July



No. : 1667

Source :

W. Va. Collection  
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

~~May 1946~~ August 7, 1946

Subject :

Mower Lumber Co.

Mill pond & log cars

No. : 1668

Source :

W. Va. Collection  
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

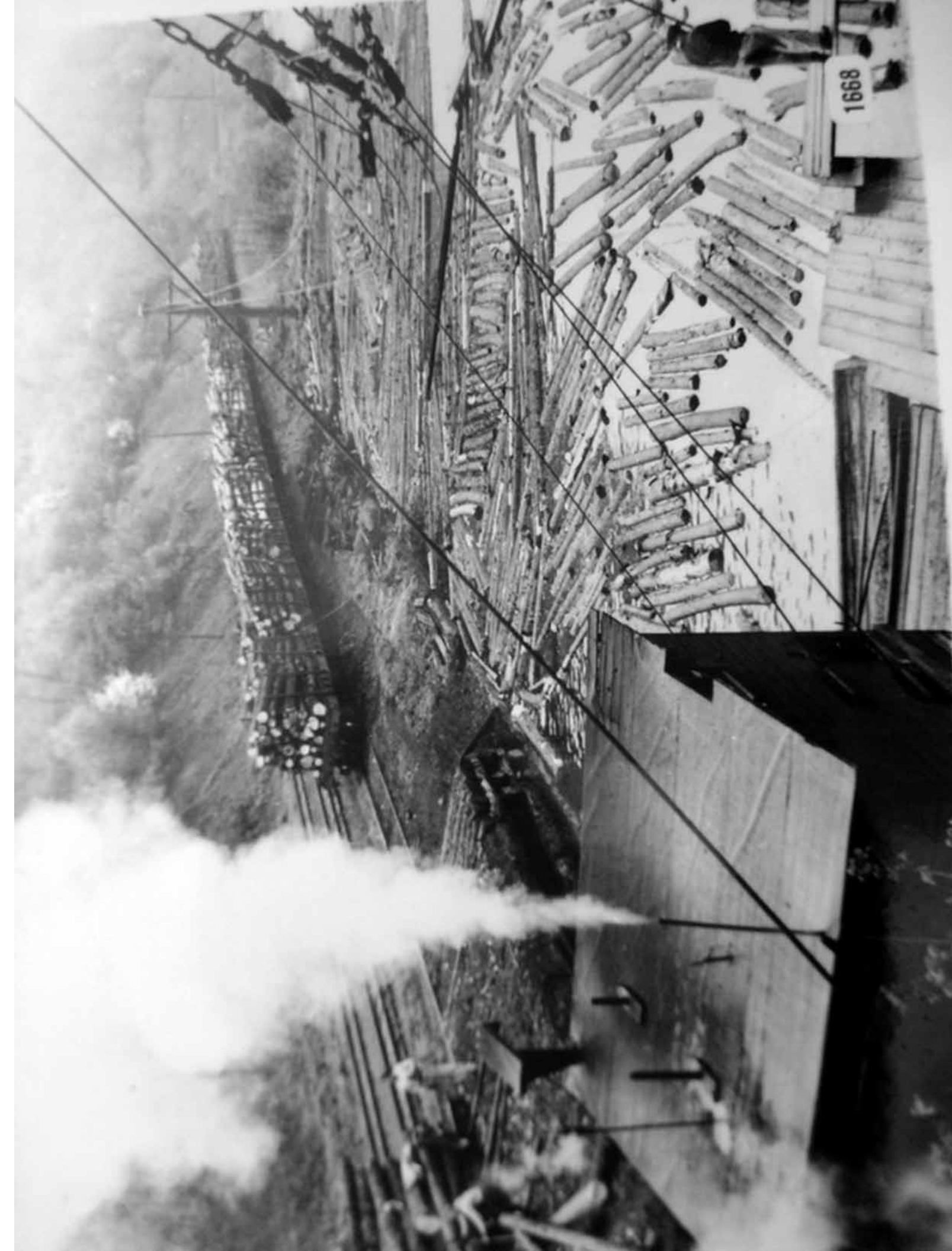
Date : May 20, 1946

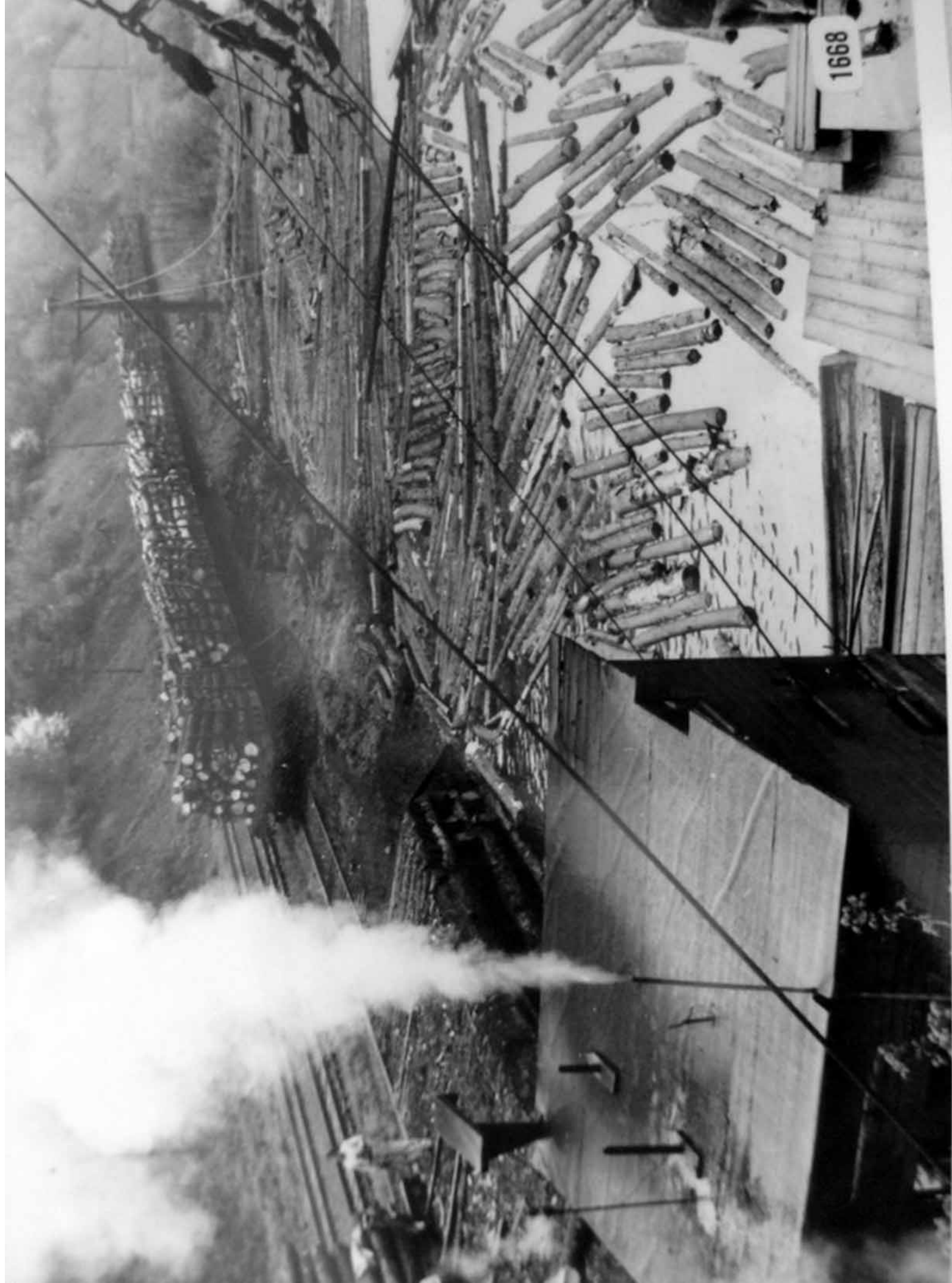
Subject :

Mowen Lumber Co

Log pond & log cars







No.: 1669

Source:

W. Va. Collection  
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: August 3, 1946

Subject:

Mower, Lumber Co

Interior view of mill

L-R:

Alex Duncan, Sherlin Lambert, Cam  
Ware

1669





No. : 1672

Source :

W. Va. Collection  
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date : August 7, 1946

Subject :

Mower Lumber Co

Interior view of ~~mill~~ flooring mill

L-R : Arthur White, Marvin Moss



No.: 1673

Source:

W. Va. Collection  
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: August 7, 1946

Subject:

Mower Lumber Co.

Interior view of mill showing logs  
log chain

Ben Jackson in photo

No. : 1059

Source :

Everett Walford

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp and Paper Co mill pond  
and original railroad shop



1059

G. C. & E. SHOPS, CASS W. V.



No. : 1087

Source : Allen Blackhurst

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Scene taken in W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co

Fondrey

1087







No. : 1278

Source :

Mrs Ica Sharp

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

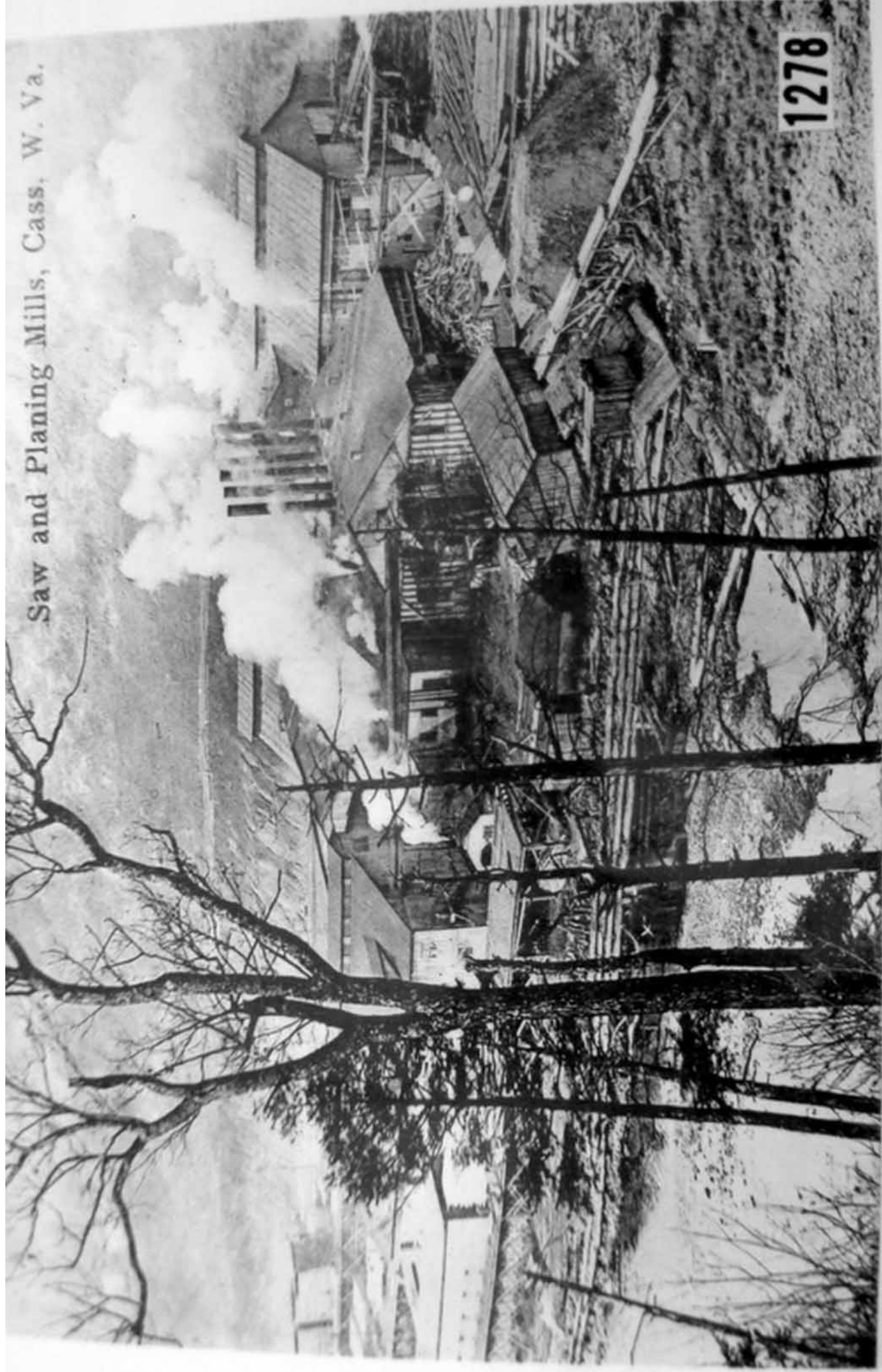
Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co sawmill, Cass

Original mill

Saw and Planing Mills, Cass, W. Va.

1278



No. : 1309

Source :

John Killoran

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

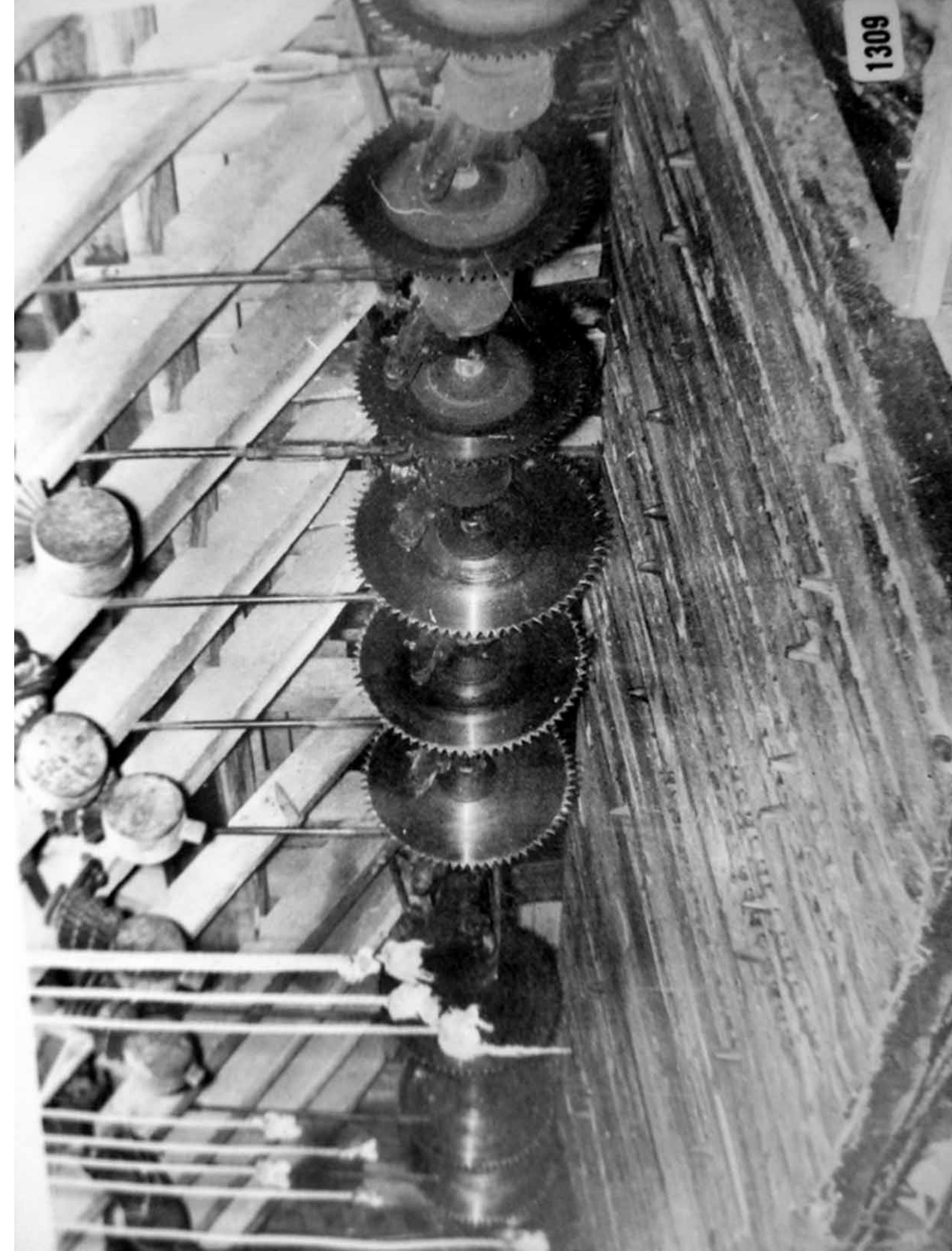
Date :

Subject :

Resaws in  
at Cass

W. K. Pulp & Paper Co in

1309





No. : 1347

Source :

Mrs Leonard Cutlip

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

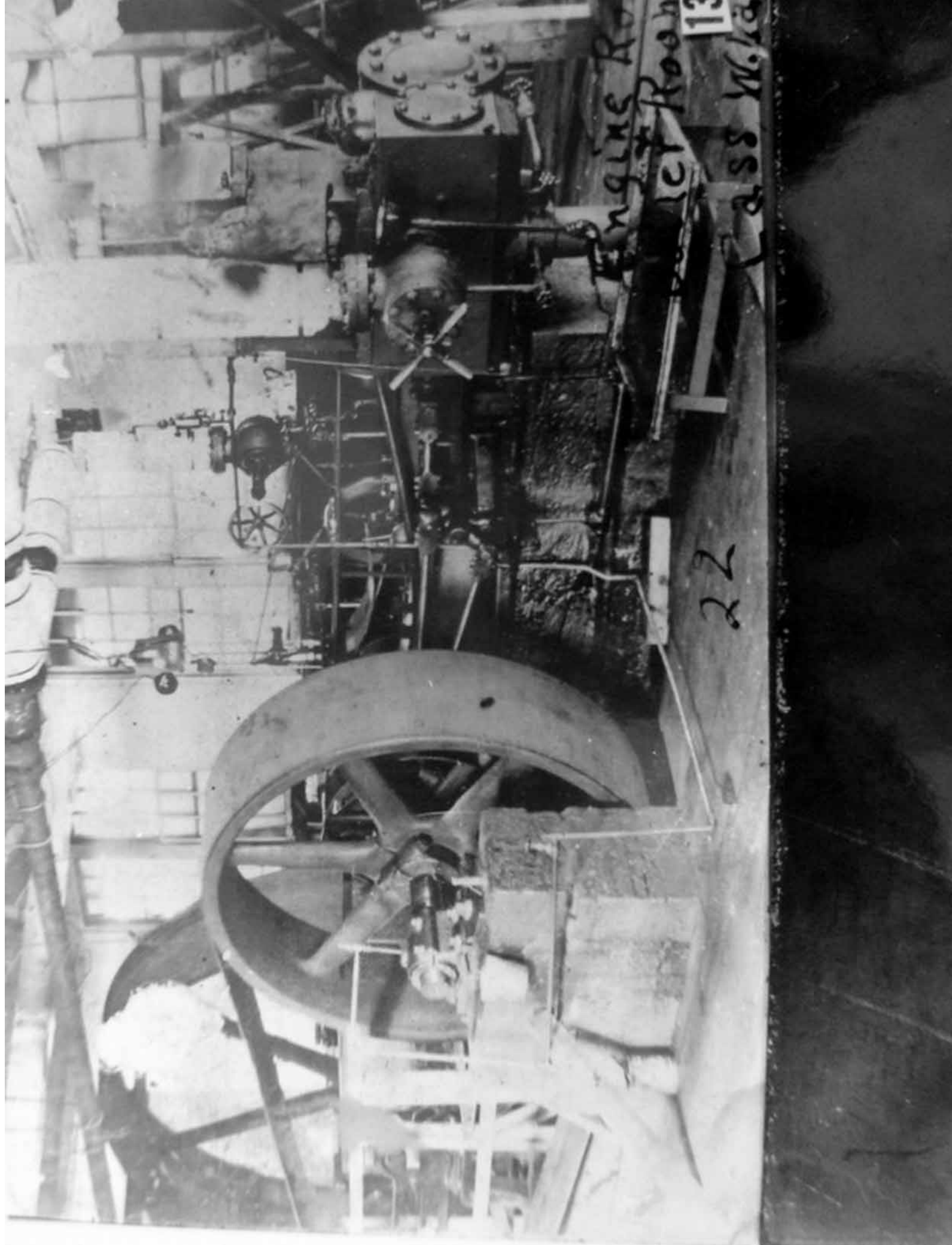
albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Engine room, Cass mill  
W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co.



No. : 1348

Source : Mrs Leonard Cuthlip

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co mill ruins  
following fire on February 24, 1922

1348





Source :

No. : 1512

Mrs Reed well

Buena Vista, Virginia

Original in the possession of :

source

Society (Post)

Print located in :

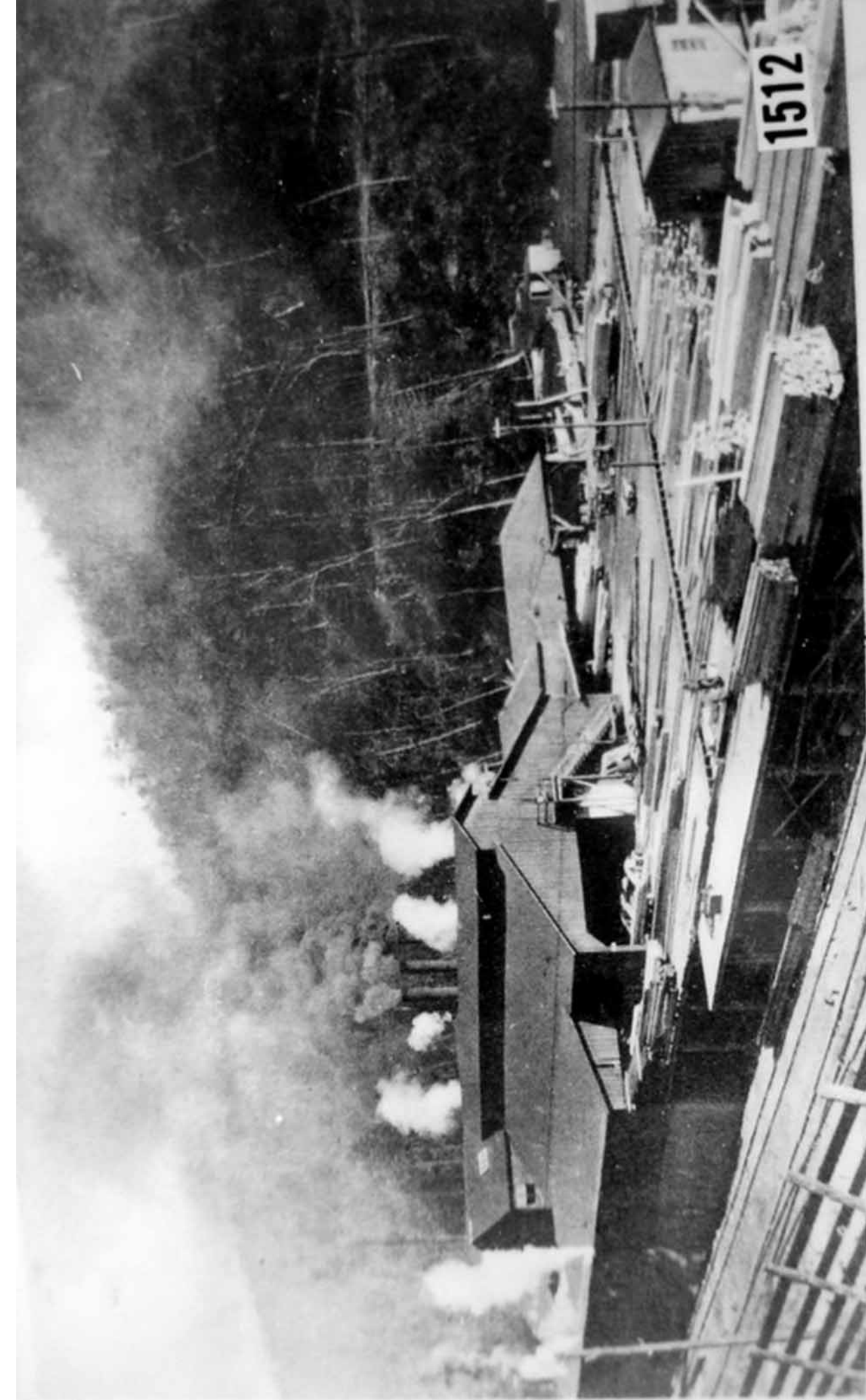
albums

(file)

Date : Postmark March 14, 1908

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co mill  
Cass



Mill, W. Va., Spruce Lumber Co., Cass W. Va.

No.: 1525

Source:

Mrs Fred Bell  
Buena Vista  
Virginia

(Postcard Society)

source

Original in the possession of:

file

Print located in:

(albums)

Date: Postmark: 7/11/08

Subject:

View of Lumber dock  
W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co mill, Cass

No. : 862

Source :

Mrs. E. P. Shafter

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

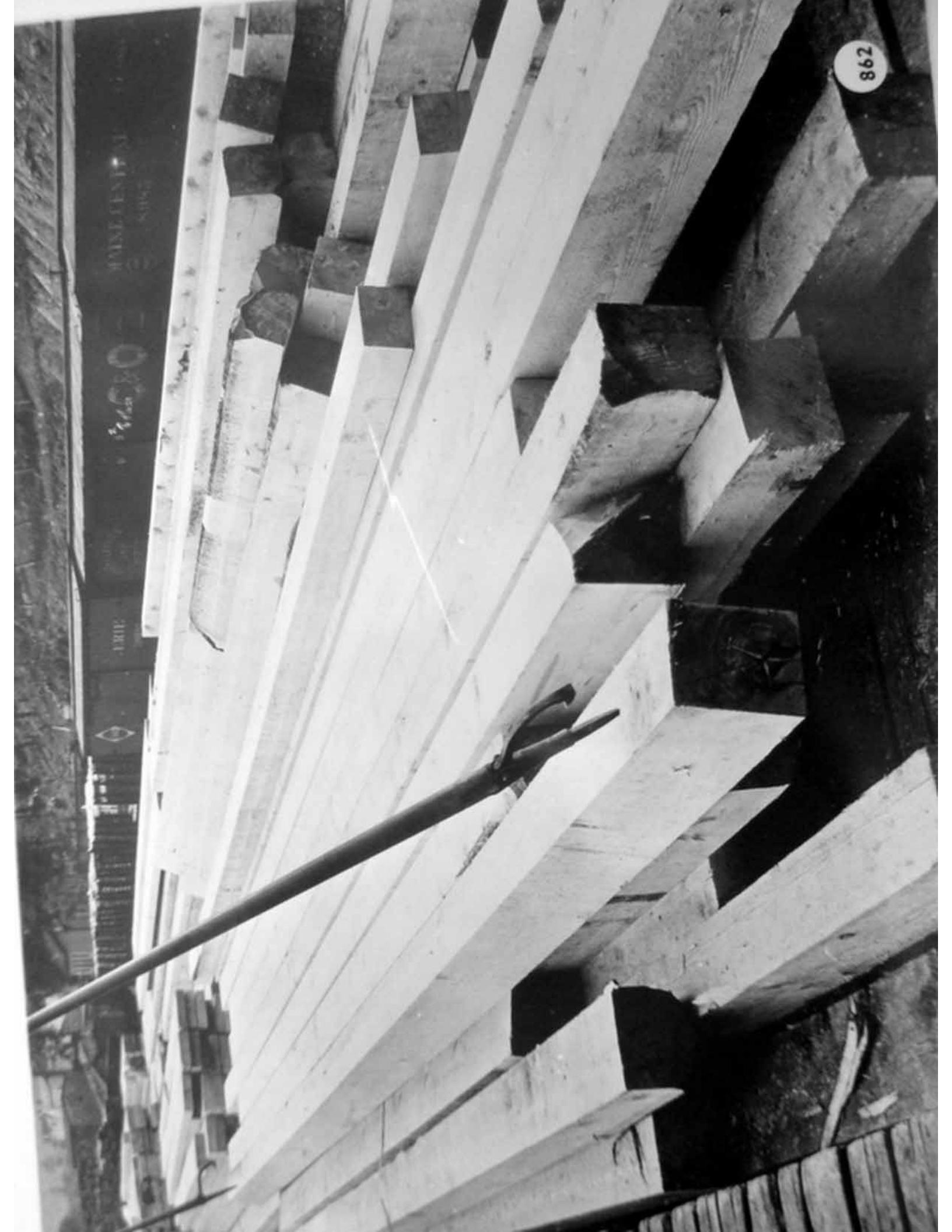
Date :

Subject :

Lumber on mill dock at Cass

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co





No. : 909

Source :

Mrs. E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

source

Date :

Subject :

Cass, view of planing mill

No. : 911

Source :

Mrs E. P. Shatter

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

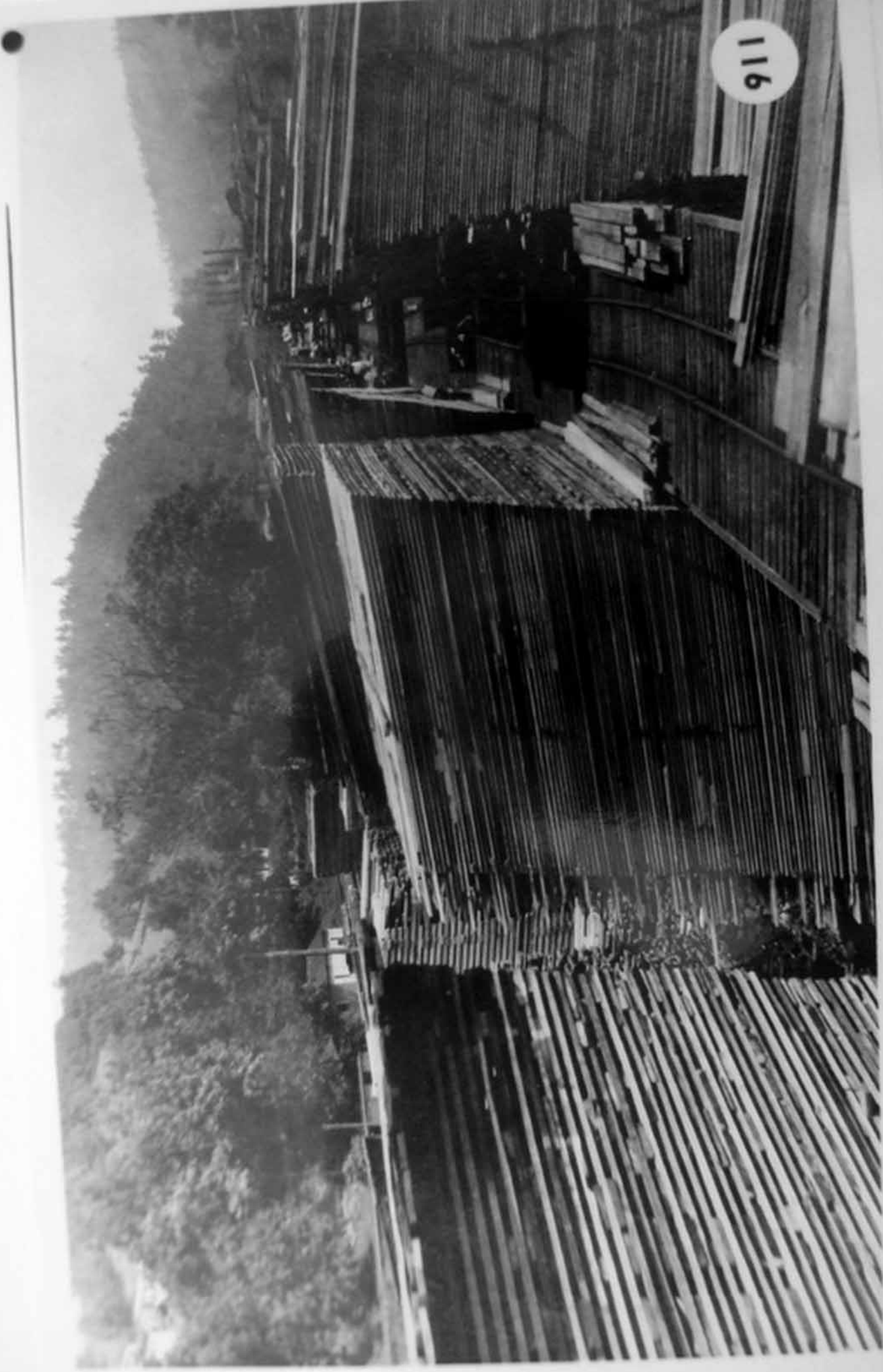
W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co Lumber yard

Cass





116



No. : 912

Source :

Mrs E. P. Shatter

Society

Original in the possession of :

source

Print located in :

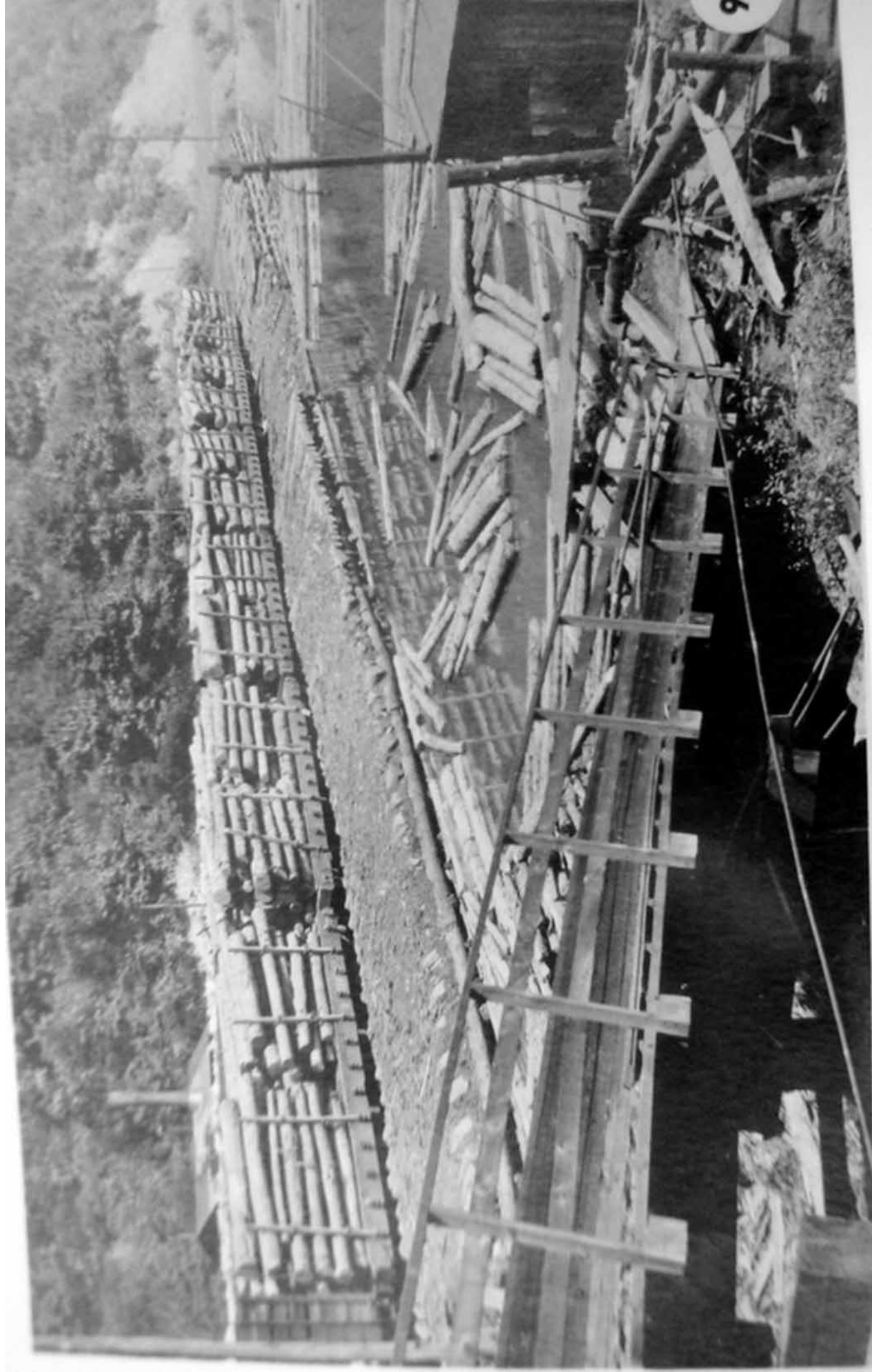
albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Mill pond, Cass mill, W. Va. Paper Co. Six loaded log cars shown photo.



No. : 913

Source : Mrs E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Lumber yard, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co,





No. : 914

Source :

Mrs E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

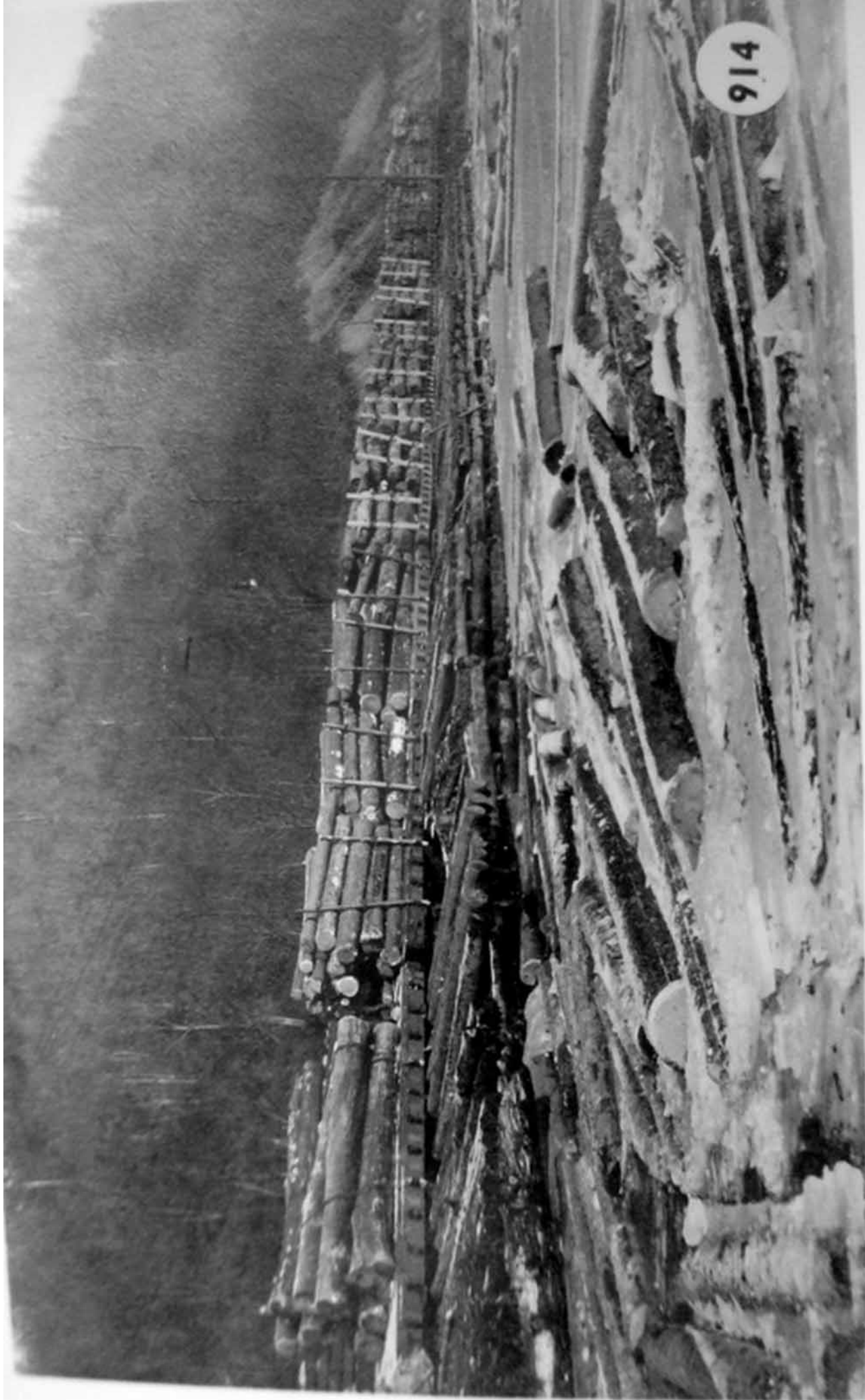
file

Date :

Subject :

Loaded log cars along side mill pond  
at Cass mill, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co

914



No. : 986 Source : Levi Galford

Society

Original in the possession of :

source

file

Print located in :

albums

Date :

Subject :

Ruins of W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co  
mill following fire on February 24, 1924





No. : 987

Source : Levi Galford

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

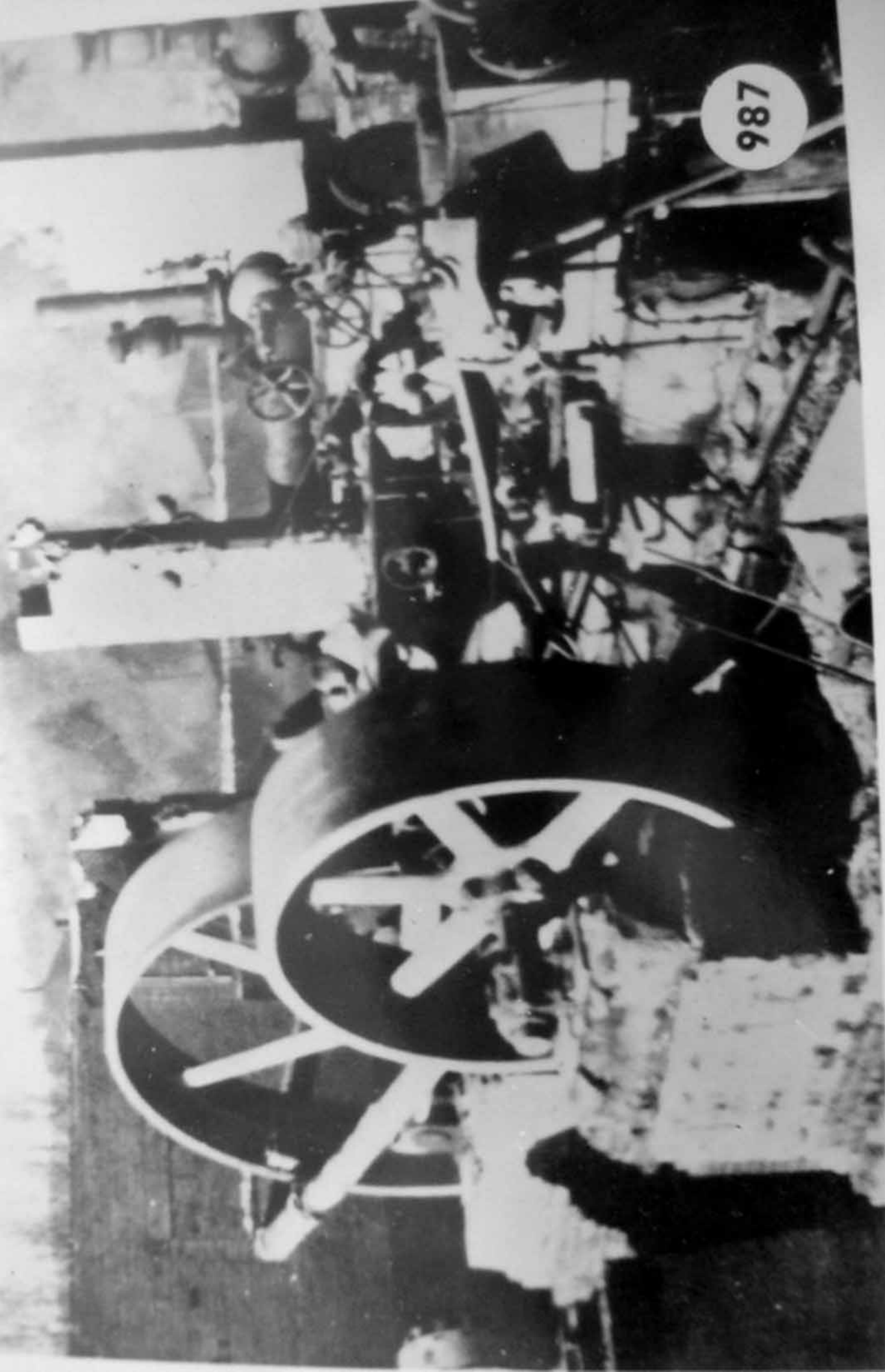
file

Date :

Subject :

Photo of machinery ruined in W. Va.  
Pulp & Paper Co Cass mill fire on  
February 24, 1922

987



No. : 339

Source : Mrs Forrest Woodde

Original in the possession of :

Society

Print located in :

file

Date : 1921 or 1922

Subject :

Cass

View up Leather-bark Creek - shows part  
of mill, mill pond, original shop &  
present shop under construction





No. : 348

Source : Mrs Forrest Wooddell

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

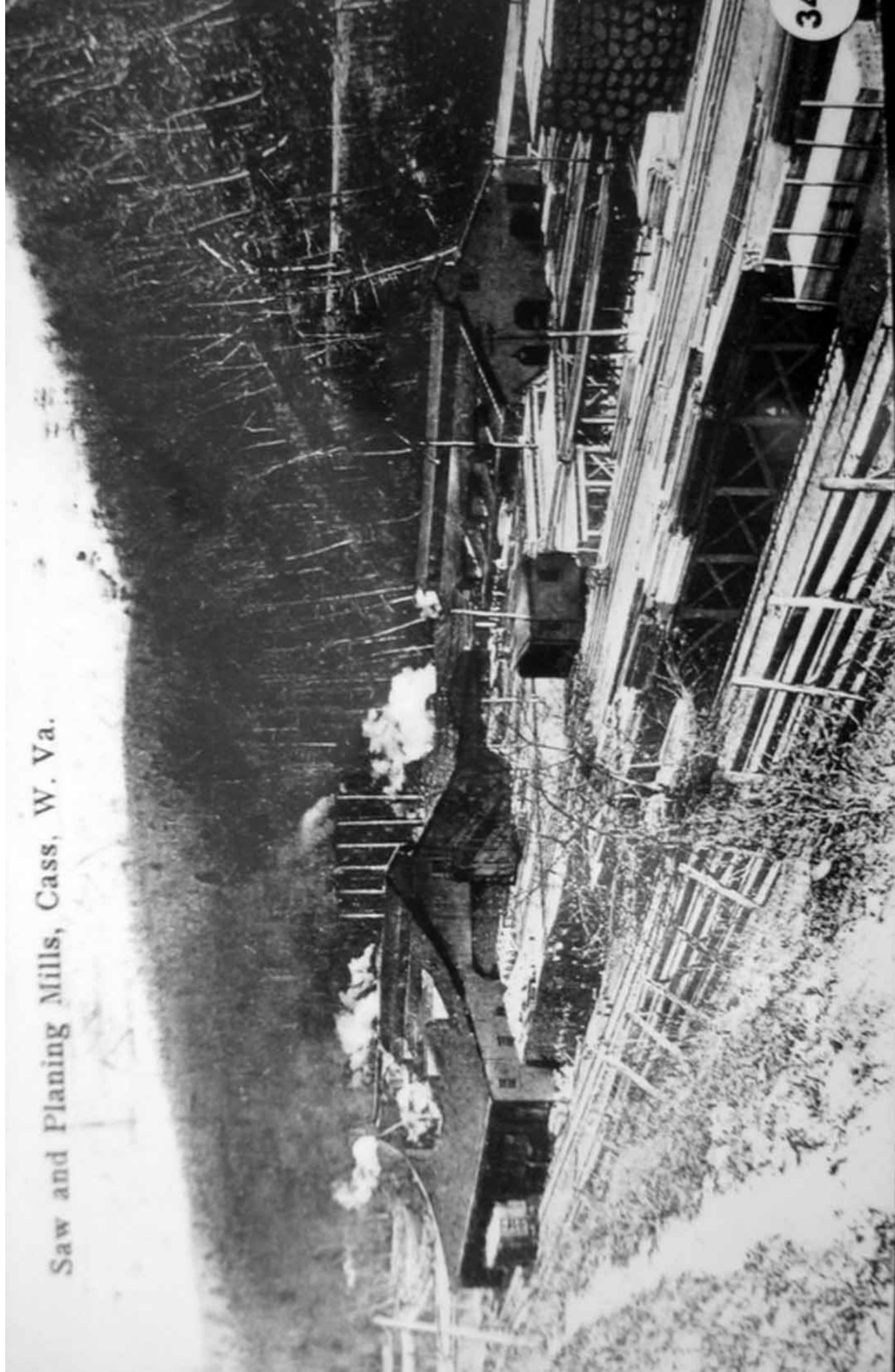
file

Date :

Subject : Cass

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co. saw & planing  
mills Sawmill is the original  
mill.

Saw and Planing Mills, Cass, W. Va.



No. : 425-

Source :

Lillian Johnson

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

View of mill of W. Va Pulp and  
Paper Co at Cass

Picture taken from the north and  
shows first mill and boiler house





77

W. VA., Pulp & Paper Co's Mill  
GASS, W. VA.

No.: 519

Source:

Ivan Clarkson

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: October 4, 1923

Subject:

Cass - view of mill from across  
the river



Cass, West Virginia  
Dec. 4, 1925

4-11a-

No.: 527

Source:

Iwan Clarkson

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

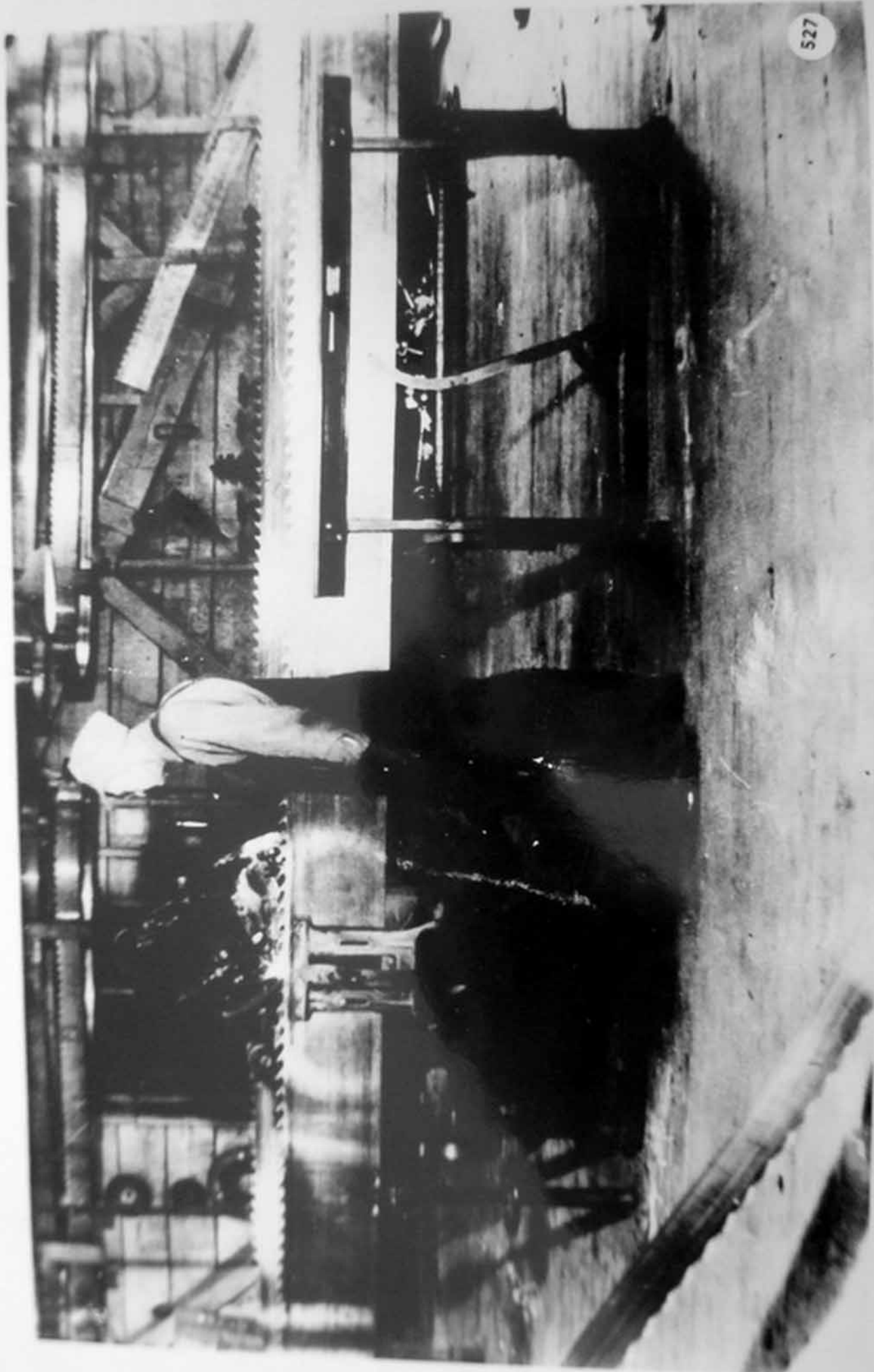
file

Date: 1940

Subject:

File room at Cass mill, W. C.  
Pulp & Paper Co





Source :

100

No. :

No. : 521 Source : Ivan Clarkson

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

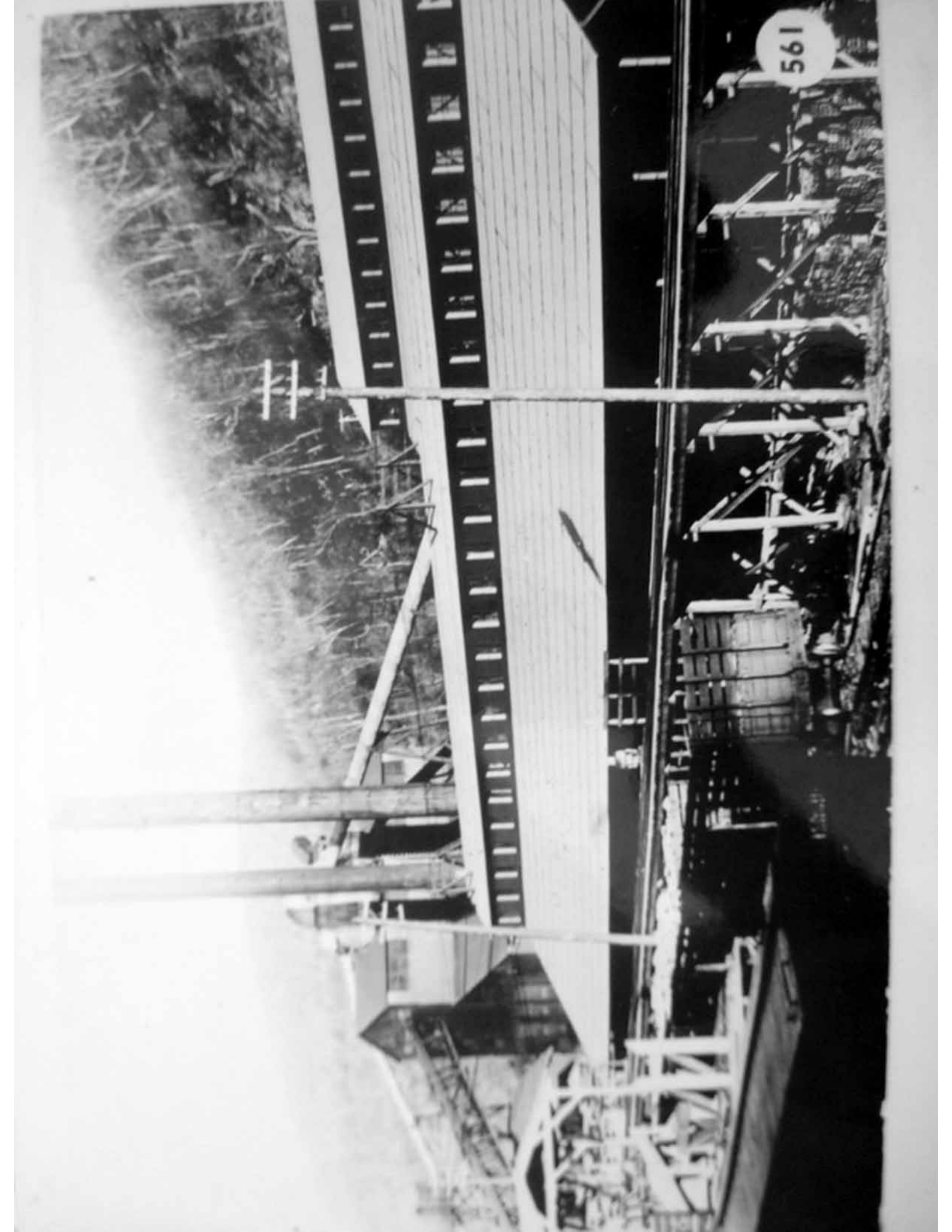
file

Date :

Subject :

W. W. Pulp & Paper Co

View of planing mill & power house



No. : 688

Source :

Keller

Original in the possession of :

Society

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date : February 1922

Subject :

View of W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Co.  
mill following fire on February

1922



6889



No. : 857

Source :

L. B. Byrd

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

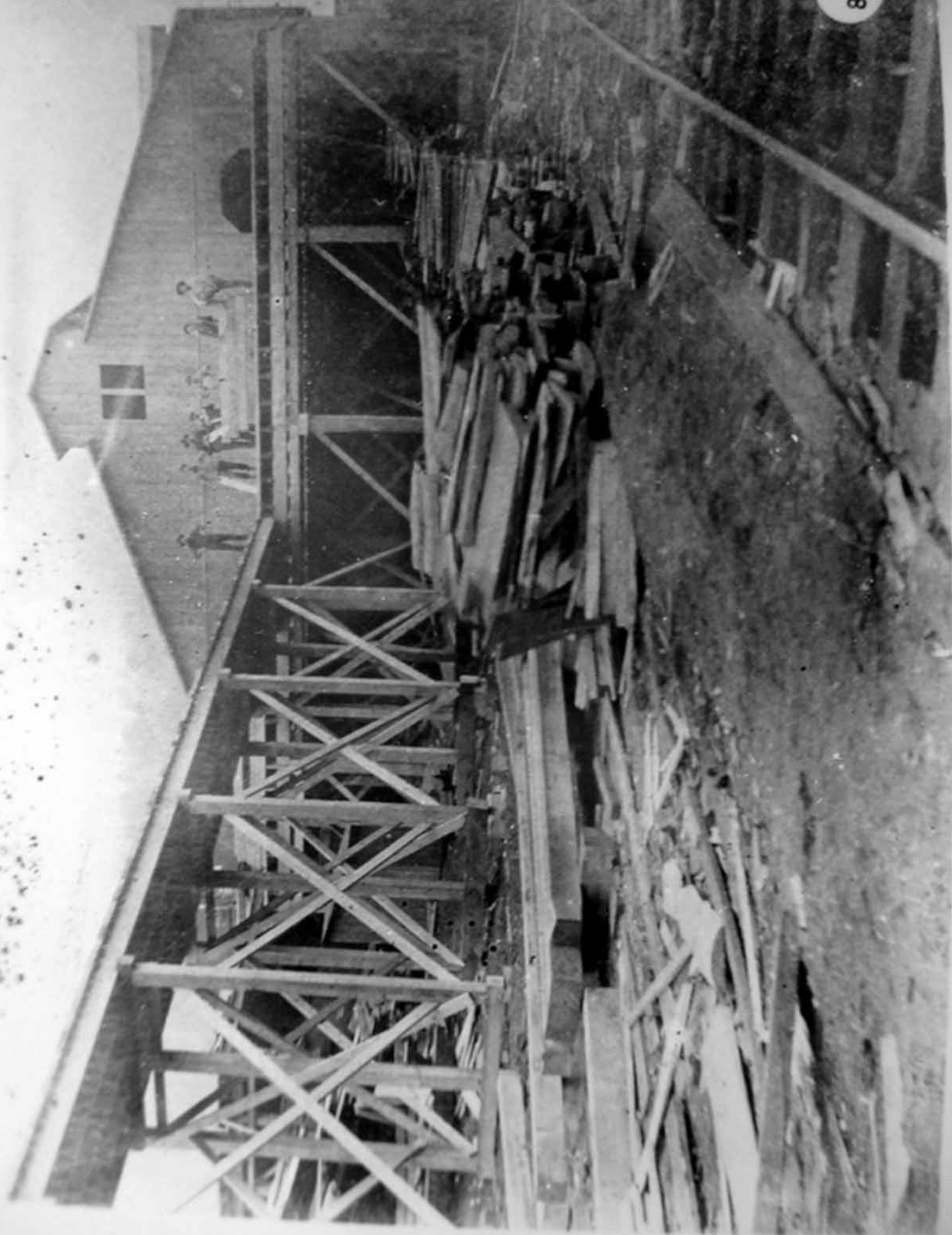
file

Date :

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co.

Original planing mill at Cass



Mass Mill &

Shor

WEST VIRGINIA PULP & PAPER CO.



**Cass Mill &  
Shop**

No. : 319

Source :

Mrs Markwood Gumm

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

~~file~~

Date : February, 1922

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co

Cass mill

Following fire on

February 24, 1922





1086

9  
8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1



1085





No.: 526

Source:

Ivan Clarkson

(same as # 1086)

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: Spring 1925

Subject:

Shop crew, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co

see # 1086 for names





The following were engineers on the G.C & E R.R some time or other

George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Cromer, Ben Cameron, Sam Waugh, Frank Williams, Floyd Dorman, H.C Gilmore, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover Craddock-Red Stanley, C.W Odell was train dispatcher .Frank Imes was conductor on Cheat. James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the

I camps. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kenealey, Jean Kepner, Homer Brown, Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar Sarson. Joe Wooddell is town police. Herbert Shafer master mechanic and shop foreman, their electric welder man is Chalmers Shrader.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,000 acres <sup>in Boone Co.</sup> besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass, Back Mt, Cheat Mt, Down Cheat River, Bergoo Creek, Slatyfork, Gauley Mt, Elk River and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30 they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60 a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the band mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to their paper mill or to Luke Md to a paper mill there and on March 10. 1940 they had a big <sup>fire</sup> at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars

41 W.Va.Pulp & Paper Co.page # 4  
worth of property and material,losing 10 million pounds of finished kraft  
and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E Steeley plant  
Supt.and Walter F Linger mill chemist and dept.head were overcome with smoke  
and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Cass  
at what is called the Y,and here they made khaki dye the supt.was A.Molton.

The population of Cass at the present time is 800 but back a few years  
ago it had a population of 22,00 and at that time was the largest town in  
Pocahontas County,Cass has about 400 ~~EA~~ Company houses a school for the wh-  
ite population also a school for the colored,3 churches and a large hotel  
that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management  
of Mrs.Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs.Heaster at different times they employed  
4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks,besides this establishment they had private hotels  
and restaurants on the east side across the river,and it was on east side  
where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders  
were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 sto-  
res a restaurant,a hotel and Several privately owned houses.

The Co.had camps from Spruce to Bemis on the Western Maryland R R,  
most of the G.O & E R R was built by Italians and Austrians and these were  
known as the bohunk camps.

During their operations coal was discovered and mines were opened up on top of Gauley Mt. between Bergoo Creek and Slatyfork this mine was operated until 1940. another mine was opened up below Spruce and was called the Hopkins mine, another was the Linan mine just below the Hopkins mine, and about 1920 Big John mine and Deer Lick mines were opened up, this was about the time they were lumbering up Fishing Hawk Creek this coal was mostly used by the Co. in their trains and at the town of Cass. You find coal on many of their holdings and no doubt some day these mines will be reopened and new ones opened up.

The W.Va Pulp And Paper Company beyond a doubt had the largest operations of any Co. operating in Pocahontas Co. and today they own several thousand acres of land but have sold several thousand acres to the government for reforestation purposes, their farming operations are very extensive as they have farm lands from just outside of Cass to the Greenbank road and along Deer Creek and you find land in high state of cultivation and some of the finest barns that are found in this section of the State and in these they winter from 2 to 300 head of cattle and back a few years ago they produced over 1,000 lambs a year.

The W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Operations in Pocahontas County have meant more to the growth of the county than any other operation that has taken place here as they not only furnished employment to the people but have helped

greatly in the way of taxation besides the towns that have sprung up namely Cass,Slatyfork,and Spruce besides scattered houses at these coal mines at Hopkins mine, Linan mine, Deer Lick & Big John mines,at Spruce where they had the pulp mill you found hundreds of acres of spruce trees as this is a cold place snow getting 2 to 3 feet deep.

During their 40 years of operating at Cass it is estimated they cut I. 126.400.000 and about the same amount of pulp wood.most of the hardwood went to Luke Md.and it is estimated by one of their former lumber graders that they carried 16 million feet of lumber on the yards at a time.They had a planing mill and put out finished surfaced lumber in the way of siding,flooring and other dressed lumber that was mostly used locally in the county.

The Pocahontas Supply Co.store did a business of \$ 1200.000.00 a year business when they were in the best of the timber and when business was good.

The mill burned in 1924 but was rebuilt at once.

Cass today is a thriving lumber town that has meant a lot to Pocahontas County as it made a market for all the surplus farm commodities of the surrounding territory,payed enormous taxes that helped our county schools and government and furnished employment to thousands of her citizens this was Pocahontas County's largest operation and the payroll of the W.Va.Pulp and Paper Co.was the largest of any in Pocahontas.The lumbering from about 1900 to 1925 was the greatest industry in the County but since that time the oper-



There have been smaller operations but the Government has bought thousands of acres of cut over land for reforestation purposes so in years to come it is hoped the lumber industry will be better than at the present time due to the reforesting.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Company hope to complete their operations at Cass in 2 or 3 years the present time they are just operating in order to furnish employment to the population of Cass.

Information-O.B. Curry. Marlinton. W.Va.

J.R. Guthrie. " "

Court Records. " "

Jay Buckley. Buckeye. W.Va.

William Buckley. " "

Julian Arbuckle. Maxwellton. W.Va.

All the above worked for the Co. at some time or other but Arbuckle and his father was Co. Dr. for a time at Cass.

56  
Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Second Ave.

1940

West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry

Date 3/13/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 3/13/41  
& 3/12/41

Typist Smith

Date Typed 3/13/41

Source James Forney. Marlinton. W. Va.  
Court Records.

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

Some of the information was gotten before these dates but not completed  
until above dates.



Commerce and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
Williams and Pifer Lumber Co.

In 1917 was incorporated and L. H. Williams was Pres. and Gen mgr.  
A. C. Pifer Vice Pres. and Dr. M. S. Wilson Sec. and Treas, all of Marlinton. W.  
Va.

Their operations have been all over Pocahontas County and part of  
Greenbrier as they operated in 1917 on Spring Creek in Greenbrier Co. this  
was sawed by J. L. Howard of Buckeye. and in 1920 they were operating on Lau-  
rel Creek. 1917 on Elk. and in 1920 on Brushy Mt. Cummins Creek. Beaver Creek  
and until 1926 they were operating in the Huntersville District but in 1929  
they bought two tracts of timber from F. P. Clark totaling 810 acres and in  
1930 they bought a boundary of 60 acres of the John Gay est. on Bucks Run and  
in 1931 they bought a tract of 158 acres on the Dry Fork of Stony Creek  
from William D and Jessie Burgess of Laurel Creek. and since that time they  
have had their circular mill set in the upper part of the town of Marlinton  
and buying and trucking logs where ever they can buy any in connection with  
this mill they run a planer and sell building material already surfaced and  
ready for use.

When they were operating at capacity they used from 6 to 8 teams of  
horses to do the skidding had a log engine and 4 or 5 log trucks when they were  
operating on Laurel Creek and used from 3 to 4 trucks to haul lumber and logs.

Bert Roberts was their sawyer for quite a long time, and Alva Johnson  
is the present lumber grader and has been for several years.

Besides their lumbering operations they have a large store, in which  
they have their office, a general store a meat market with an experienced meat  
cutter in Clarence Jordan Ward Wimer store man assisted by hired help and be-  
sides this they distribute Conoco gasoline and oil in Pocahontas and Randolph  
County. this business was all built up from their lumbering operations of the  
last 24 years.

Information. James Forney. Marlinton. W. Va.  
Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.





Feb. 23, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin

Juanita S. Milley  
Clover Lick, W. Va.  
Pocahontas County  
May 2, 1940

Ch. 4 Section 5a - 1

During the Industrial Period (1860-1910) the people of Pocahontas County repaired and reestablished their saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, and so forth, that they had established before the Civil War, then of course there were many new ones built and many of the old ones were under new management. These, however, were all small individual businesses just as they had been before the war. No great commercial industries were begun until 1876 when the St. Lawrence Boom and Lumber Company came into the county and began cutting the white pine, cherry and walnut and rafting it down the Greenbrier River to Ronceverte. Since Pocahontas was so abundant in these timbers, this became a very important industry. Practically all of the lumber taken from this county during the next twenty-five years was taken out in this manner.

While it became known that Pocahontas had small deposits of iron, and some marble nothing was done to develop an industry and no mineral rights were taken.

Since agriculture and grazing were the chief occupation and there was no coal, nor enough other minerals to attract corporations there was no struggle between the land owners and corporations. The land was still in the hands of the original owners or their families and was valued only for its timber, grazing and for the timber. Even yet many farmers continued to clear their fields and to roll the logs into piles and burn them not realizing that they were destroying what would have soon been worth a fortune to them.

As soon as the railroads were completed in 1901, the county began to improve for now, that transportation was available, lumber companies were anxious to open up this vast timber section. Lumber towns sprang up almost over night, but when the lumbering was done they disappeared almost as fast.

Oh, I couldn't find anything

There was once a man by the name of Henry Phillips who was looking over this land in the 1790. He engaged a surveyor, William Pooge of Marlins Botton, and surveyed 41,000 acres at the headwaters of Greenbrier River. This survey took in most of that rich timber country. About the same time a Randolph County surveyor made a survey of 31,000 acres for Richard Smythe which interfered, and lapped on the 41,000 acres.

Henry Phillips having acquired this land paid little or no attention to it, not even paying the paltry taxes. With other large surveys it lay idle and useless.

The legislature of Virginia finding that such large grants hindered development, evolved the law of forfeiture. So in the 1830's and 1840's they began to cut up these lands and sell them for the benefit of the school fund. The Phillips 41,000 acres was thus disposed of to the highest bidders. It brought \$212.00 which was about the cost of surveying and selling it.

In the 1880's there was a law suit over this land because of the surveys of Phillips and Smythe. But it seems that the Smythe surveys called for a cypress and no cypress could be found in these high mountains. The work probably should have been cippus meaning a set stone. At any rate, Pocahontas county wrested from Randolph County this large territory.

This threw to Pocahontas county a big boundary of spruce and hemlock forest country so rich in timber as to render it worthless for anything else.

On the titles based on this sale of forfeitures the land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 in one day for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing.

In 1903-1915 when the heavy growth of timber was being operated a number of towns sprang up and flourished for a while and disappeared. Among them: Wilkell, Gertude, May, Brancher, Madeline, Olive, Nida, Winterburn, Burner and Oxley. The Coal and Iron Railway. What a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. Town sprang up and drummers walked the railroad from one town to the next when the trains did not run to suit them. The above mentioned towns occupied the sixteen miles of river and railroad which lies between Durbin and where Randolph County begins at the divide.

This is now a part of the cold and barren which lies in Pocahontas. Where as it used to look stern and wild, it now looks wild and naked.

From Pocahontas Times - 1918 by Andrew Price  
The above towns were only a few of the lost towns of Pocahontas. During the lumbering days towns sprang up all along the Greenbrier River and than lost their importance or ceased to exist except in name, Sitlington, Clover Lick, Harter, Campbelltown, Stilwell. This was partly after 1910, however.



West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry Date 3/22/41

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken 3/14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21  
1941

Typist Samuel G. Smith Date Typed 3/21, 22, /41

O.B. Curry, J.R. Guthrie & court records

Source Marlinton. W. Va. Date Filed

Jay And William Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

Julian Arbuckle. Maxwelton. W. Va.

This Co. has all new men at present therefore had to contact former  
employees and information was hard to get.





Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.  
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Cass. W. Va.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. began operation in 1900 and have been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was bought from Newton J Gum and at that time was being farmed by him.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. was made up by and with the following men John G Luke of Orange, N. Y and his sons William, now at Covington. Va. Al Luke, Charlie Luke and S. F Slaymaker and William Whitmer of Pa. Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co. was E. P Shafer for a long period and the present mgr. is S. D Huff, R. S Hickman was general mgr. of the Co. store and Burke McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as they had as high as 20 clerks besides the other stores at Spruce and Slaty Fork besides small stores at some of the coal mines.

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when they were operating the best of their timber, they had 14 log engines and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time, they had 10 to 12 loaders besides the steam skidders that they used on Elk and other sections XXXXX but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head. They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R R was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R R

for the G.C & E. with Robert Hivic as R R Supt. The railroad started at Cass went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Bergoo, Slatyfork and vec, with a line up Elk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremans were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr, E.C Smith was store Mgr. at Slatyfork, Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commissarys for the Co. at different places, William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat. The wood supts, were Sol McNeely, Heaston Payne ~~XXX~~ Judson Taylor and John (Jack) Crookshanks, lumber graders J.R Guthrie and Mark Wood Gum, the postmasters have been Dr. Joe Ayers, Lake Clark and James Moyers the present P.M, Merl Irvine conductor and train master, George Graham was in charge of the office R.W Fox bookkeeper and Leona Sheppard office worker, John Hannah G.C. & E .R.R. Elmer Duncan shop clerk train master and office man, Joe Graves yard foreman, S.B Nethkin run the Company Store and operated the meat market for several years but the present farm manager is George Waugh, George Anderson was shovel man for the R R and another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman, Yard foreman Hob Rose.

The first Company doctor was Dr. Julian Arbuckle he was one of Greenbrier County, leading doctors after he left Cass, the present Dr. is Dr. U.H Hannah and their veterinary was Dr. F.C Nickel.

#2 George Williams Operations Concluded.---

This timber was deeded to Smith And Whiting March 21, 1906, they paid

\$1700.00 for the boundary from which they sawed 400,000 feet of boards there was two sets .Upon completion of this operation Williams moved his mill back to the Little Levels District and over Caesar Mountain to his next set.

set. The 4th set was for J.E Peck on the farm known at that time as the Dr.J.D Thrasher farm and deeded by him to J.E and Effie Peck July 9, 1903.

The mill was set just under the top of Caesar Mountain on the Peck place and ready for operation, Peck had a team and did part of the skidding but he hired Harry and Frank Thompson of Millpoint to do part of the skidding.

John Boblett of Lobelia had the misfortune of having his hand cut off by the edger on this operation leaving him a cripple the rest of his life.

This operation took place in 1906 & 07 and they sawed 416.000.

#5-- The next set was for S.J Payne and took place on top of Caesar Mountain at the Dick Anderson farm and purchased from his widow Sally Anderson the farm is now owned by Wilford Bruffey.

This was operated in 1906 and 75,000 was saved at this set.

#6--- In 1906 George Williams sawed two sets for S.J Payne on Rush Run the timber was bought from Ambrose Hill of near Lobelia.

#7-- In 1906 & 07 Williams sawed for W.W Kinnison on Bruffeys Creek  
part of this timber was logged from Kinnison's own farm the rest he bought from near by farmers.

#3--- In 1907 George Williams set his mill on the Cass McCoy farm on  
b Bruffey's Creek and sawed a set for W.W Kinnison .Kinnison having bought  
c what timber there was on the McCoy farm ,which when sawed was used by  
t W.C. Kinnison / B.B. Kinnison / A.A. Kinnison / L.B. Kinnison / N. Kinnison.

... almost as fast.

20. I couldn't find anything much written on this.